



# Pantry Partner

C/O North Dakota Community Action Association

## 2004 Holiday Train Stops in Several North Dakota Cities



For the sixth year, the Canadian Pacific Railway holiday train traveled across several states. The purpose of the cross-country tour was to raise cash, food, and awareness for hunger relief efforts in North America. During the month of December, two freight trains, each decorated with thousands of festive lights, visited more than 25 locations in the US and Canada. Both trains also contained live holiday music shows. Stops in North Dakota included Carrington, Harvey, and Minot.

The Canadian Pacific Railway will donate more than \$225,000 (Canadian dollars) to local food banks in addition to the food and money collected during the tour. Since its beginning in 1999, the Holiday Train program has raised close to 213 tons of food and more than \$1.5 million for North American food banks.

For more information about the Holiday Train tour go online to:

[www.cpr.ca](http://www.cpr.ca)



## Tax Season Reminder

Tax season is quickly approaching. Your organization can help maximize the Earned Income Tax Credit in your community. A toolkit for municipal leaders is now posted on the web site of the National League of Cities (NLC). Go to [www2.nlc.org/nlctoolkit/html](http://www2.nlc.org/nlctoolkit/html)

Increasingly, anti-hunter and asset building advocates are including both EITC and food stamp benefits in their outreach to families struggling to put food on the table. For more info about joint EITC/food stamp initiatives email:

[evollinger@frac.org](mailto:evollinger@frac.org)

Vol. III Issue 5  
January 2005

### Inside this issue:

- Fundraising tips and resources
- Conferences, workshops, and other helpful hints

## North Dakota Community Action Association Extends a Sincere Thank You to the North Dakota Attorney General's Office

Recently, the North Dakota Community Action Association (NDCAA) was selected as a recipient of funding from the North Dakota Attorney General's office. The funding was designated for hunger relief efforts in the state.

The NDCAA was selected as a recipient based on its previous efforts to raise awareness and alleviate hunger. In addition, the NDCAA has

the capacity to carry-out statewide projects.

During the month of December, Community Action Agencies partnered with a number of community-based hunger organizations to ensure needy families and individuals were provided with much-needed protein. The funding from the Attorney General's office was utilized to purchase

and distribute turkeys and hams. With rising heat costs and extra holiday expenses, many low-income households are unable to afford quality protein products.

The NDCAA extends a sincere thank you to the Attorney General's office for aiding in the battle against hunger and brightening the holidays for hundreds of North Dakotans.

### Newsletter Published by:

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## Question: Is it ok to give volunteers gift cards?

At the end of the year, many organizations show their volunteers appreciation with a variety of gifts. However, organizations should be cautious when awarding gift cards. The Internal Revenue Service may consider the value of the gift card to be reportable compensation paid by the organization to the volunteer for their service. Therefore, the best approach is to recognize volunteers on occasion with gifts of relatively low-priced

value that cannot be redeemed for cash. Examples include flowers, food, event tickets, T-shirts, hats, etc.

The IRS utilizes a number of factors to determine if a gift card is compensation. Those factors include the frequency of how often a gift card is awarded, the value of the gift card, and whether the volunteers expect to receive the cards in exchange for the services they provide. For more information about this issue and others check out [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)

## Rural Transportation Grants

January 20, 2005 is the expected date for announcement of the Request for Applications for Summer Food Program Rural Transportation Grants provided for under the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-265). The grants will be given to Summer Food Service Program sponsors that serve rural areas to increase participation at congregate feeding sites. The funds will go to sponsors who develop creative approaches to overcome transportation barriers. A maximum of 60 sponsors in up to five states will be awarded grants. For details, go to [http://www.frac.org/html/federal\\_food\\_programs/](http://www.frac.org/html/federal_food_programs/)



## New Legislation Requires Disclosure of Allergens

President George Bush has signed a new food labeling legislation that will provide clear, consistent and reliable ingredient label information. This is an essential protection for the 11 million Americans who have food allergies, according to the Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Network. The new labeling bill will ensure that all allergens are disclosed and the ingredient terms are understandable to the average consumer and not just scientists. The bill requires food manufacturers to use plain English words like "milk" or "wheat" rather than less familiar words like "casein" or "semolina" to identify the most common food allergens. Each year 29,000 Americans are hospitalized because of allergic reactions to food.

The bill takes effect January 1, 2006 and is known as The Food Allergen Labeling and Protection Act (FALCPA) and is included as Title II of Senate Bill 741.

## United State Senators Unite for Hunger Caucus

The issue of hunger has united U.S. Senators to form the Senate Hunger Caucus. Since its founding in June, one-third of the entire chamber has joined. The group aims to focus the Senate's and the public's attention to food insecurity. One of the caucus's first orders of business will be keeping the issue of hunger on the Senate's front burner. For more information:

[www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A11095-2004Nov24.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A11095-2004Nov24.html)

## Checklist for Prize Promotional Fundraisers



Is your organization planning to raise funds with a fabulous raffle drawing? Be sure to take the time to research the legality of any raffle or prize

promotions *before* you even sell the first ticket.

An organization can avoid many legal pitfalls by consulting several resources. The IRS publishes a helpful guide that outlines federal tax filing requirements for nonprofits conducting gaming activities such as bingo, pull-tabs, etc. The publication is #3079 *Gaming Publication for Tax-Exempt Organizations*.

In addition, review state and local regulations. Contact the North Dakota Attorney General's office at 701-328-2210 for state requirements. Contact your local city council or Mayor's office for local licensing / permit / registration information.

Additional questions your organization should research include:

- Must the proceeds of the fundraiser event be used for specific purposes?
- Is there a limit on the number of fundraiser events per year?
- Must the organization's expenses be limited to a certain amount or percentage?
- What record keeping is required?
- What taxes must be paid on the prize winnings?
- What tax filings are due?
- Is unrelated business income tax (UBIT) due?
- Are the individuals organizing and operating the event volunteers, employees or independent contractors? (Different laws may apply to each category)

### UND Initiates Center for Community Engagement



The University of North Dakota surveyed leaders of nonprofit organizations and recently released the survey results. The research report, "Assessment of North

Dakota Communities and Nonprofits: Opportunities for Engagement," is available on UND's website:

[www.communityengagement.und.edu](http://www.communityengagement.und.edu)

The assessment illustrates strengths, challenges, and opportunities in the nonprofit sector. UND also established a set of recommendations for ways UND can link its academic resources to those needs. One of outcomes of the assessment was the development of the Center for Community Engagement. UND plans to support the summer placement of students in nonprofit organizations and rural communities and support faculty research with community and nonprofit partners. Nonprofits are welcome to submit ideas, suggestions, comments during the development of programs and activities.



The North Dakota Association of

Fundraising Professionals plays an active role in providing quality workshops to many nonprofit organizations on numerous topics related to the field of fundraising. The Association also offers newsletters, resources, and professional development scholarships.

To find out more about becoming a member and the benefits available contact 701-663-4758.



### QUICK BITS

- A great free resource that addresses common questions about fundraising can be found online at: [www.genie.org](http://www.genie.org)
- New and improved preventive Medicare benefits start in 2005. These benefits include one-time initial wellness physical exam within 6 months of the day a person first enrolls in Medicare Part B, screening blood tests for early detection of cardiovascular diseases, and diabetes screening tests for people with Medicare at risk for diabetes. For more information about Medicare call 1-800-MEDICARE.
- Help recognize local food stamp offices for good customer service by nominating them for the new "Hunger Heroes" award. For details, see the posting on USDA's web site at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/fsp/outreach/heroes.htm>

## Food Stamp Program Seeks Feedback



The United States Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), Food Stamp Program is interested in references, resources, real life examples and quotes regarding the impact of food stamp benefits to employers, retailers, and communities. More specifically, how increasing participation in the Food Stamp Program brought benefits, not only to the participants, but the community, retailers, and employers as

well. Quotes may be published in outreach materials that would be shared with State and local leaders.

Examples, research citations, or a quote about the economic impact of food stamp participation can be sent to: Laura Griffin, Food Stamp Outreach Coordinator at: [laura.griffin@fns.usda.gov](mailto:laura.griffin@fns.usda.gov)

Be sure to include your full name, title, organization, city, and state. The FNS welcomes comments, suggestion, and ideas at anytime. The FNS is dedicated to enhancing and improving the Food Stamp Program.

## Directors & Officers Liability Insurance

Members of the North Dakota Nonprofit Association are eligible for preferential pricing on Directors and Officers liability insurance from Monitor Liability Managers. Monitor has a dedicated team of professionals, including underwriters and attorneys, that specialize in the D&O needs of nonprofit organizations. For more information on NDANO membership and the benefits associated contact:

NDANO at 1-888-396-3266.



## Information Request

For any additional information or to submit a news bit for the next newsletter, please complete this form and return it the address listed below.

Please send me additional information on:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Action      | <input type="checkbox"/> Food Gleaning               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food Dialog Workshop  | <input type="checkbox"/> Grant Opportunities         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: please specify | <input type="checkbox"/> Food Needs Assessment Study |

- ☐ I would like to contribute a story, or news bit for the next newsletter. Please contact me.

Comments:

NAME

ADDRESS

PHONE

C/O North Dakota Community  
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2105 Lee Avenue  
Bismarck ND 58504

## Local High School "Scavenger Hunt" Benefits Food Pantry



Recently, members of the Hillsboro High School Family Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) went on a scavenger hunt. In their 45-minute scavenger race around town, the students collected groceries and non-food items for the Kiwanis Food Pantry.

The students enjoyed the competition and donating their proceeds to a worthy cause.

## Grand Forks Area Churches Take Unique Approach to Donations with "Undies Sundays"

Grand Forks area churches recently collaborated on a project entitled "Undies Sundays" to collect packages of new underwear, socks, and diapers for those in need. These items cannot be found in thrift stores and that few think to donate. Items collected were distributed through United Way agencies in the area and area shelters and food banks.



## Fundraiser Idea "Chinese New Year"

Celebrate the New Year—Chinese style. The year of the Rooster begins February 9, 2005. Celebrate and raise funds by selling fortune cookie bouquets. Fill Chinese takeout cartons with the yummy treats. Include a note on or inside the box that states something like "Hungry families in our community are fortunate for your generosity. Thank you for supporting our hunger relief efforts."



### The Grant Institute Workshop

#### The Grant Institute's Grants 101: Professional Grant Proposal Writing Workshop

will be held at North Dakota State University, January 12-14, 2005. The course is an intensive and detailed introduction to the process, structure, and skill of proposal writing. Participants will become competent program planning and proposal writing professionals. Tuition is \$597 and includes a certification and a number of grant writing guides. For more information contact  
1-888-824-4424.



## National Anti-Hunter Policy Conference

From Sunday, February 27 through Tuesday, March 1, 2005, the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) and America's Second Harvest, in cooperation with the National CACFP Forum, will host the *2005 National Anti-Hunger Policy Conference*. This joint conference brings together advocates from anti-hunter, food bank, child care, direct service, human needs, religious, children's, immigrant, health, education and other related groups from across the nation. This year's program will include workshops, legislative briefings, strategy sessions, receptions, and meetings with federal and state officials. For more information about the conference go online to:

[www.frac.org](http://www.frac.org) or call 202-986-2200 ext. 3017

## ND Grocers Association



For several years, the North Dakota Grocers Association has provided a complimentary booth space to the North Dakota Community Action Association (NDCAA) at its annual trade show and convention. The NDCAA utilizes the booth space to provide an educational opportunity for grocers and retail distributors. The NDCAA provides information on donating products to local hunger alleviation programs, acceptable and non-acceptable donations, tax-incentives to donees, and much more. This year's trade show is scheduled for January 22, 2005 at the Ramada Plaza Suites in Fargo. The NDCAA greatly appreciates the ND Grocers Association's support and generosity.



### Foundation Spotlight: Northwest Area Foundation


The Northwest Area Foundation is pleased to announce the Great Strides Award, an exciting opportunity to recognize and celebrate communities working to reduce poverty. The Foundation will select up to four communities from its eight-state region: MN, IA, ND, SD, MT, ID, WA, and OR. At least two awards will go to rural communities. Each award recipient will receive up to \$100,000. Communities will be selected for the award based on their innovative approaches to poverty reduction, willingness to share their experiences with a broader audience, and identified uses for the award funds to continue their poverty reduction work.

The Foundation is now taking applications for this new award program. Successful applicants will meet specific criteria. Questions about the award and the application process will be processed through the web site link below. Applications are due by Tuesday, January 18, 2005. Finalists will be notified by e-mail and / or telephone by January 27, 2005. Two-day site visits will be scheduled to meet the members of the community program during the time period of January 31, and February 18, 2005. Award recipients will be notified by February 26, 2005.

Click on the following web link to view the guidelines and complete the application for the Great Strides Award  
<http://www.nwaforg.org/greatstrides/respond.cfm?e=1145&c=200104>

To contact NWAf, email [llafontaine@nwaf.org](mailto:llafontaine@nwaf.org) or write to:

Northwest Area Foundation  
60 Plato Boulevard East  
St. Paul, MN 55107



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WE'RE ON THE WEB!  
[WWW.NDCAA.ORG](http://WWW.NDCAA.ORG)

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This newsletter was made possible with a *Community Food & Nutrition Grant* from the *ND Dept of Commerce Division of Community Services*.